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PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of: LeCluyse, Edward L., et al. Group Art Unit: 1651

Serial No.: 09/527,352 Examiner: Afremova, V.

Filed: March 17, 2000 Docket No.: 421/17/2

For: METHOD OF SCREENING CANDIDATE COMPOUNDS FOR SUSCEPTIBILITY
TO BILIARY EXCRETION

AMENDMENT A

Honorable Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This is responsive to the Office Action dated March 13, 2001, having a term for Response that expired on June 13, 2001. A Petition for a 3-month Extension of Time up to and including September 13, 2001, together with a check covering the \$445.00 small entity extension fee, is enclosed. Favorable consideration and allowance are respectfully requested in view of the following Amendments and Remarks.

AMENDMENTS

Kindly amend the subject application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 12 and 24.

Please amend claims 1, 13, 25, 39, and 52 as follows:

1. (Once Amended) A method of screening a candidate compound *in vitro* for susceptibility to *in vivo* biliary excretion, the method comprising the steps of:

- (a) providing a culture of hepatocytes, the culture of hepatocytes comprising at least one bile canaliculus;
- (b) exposing a candidate compound to the culture; and